Contacts: Kent Frantz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 22, 2015

(770) 486-1133 x 228 **Reggina Cabrera** (770) 486-0028 x 322

National Weather Service to Provide Upgraded River Forecast Services at Whitesburg, Georgia

The National Weather Service Forecast Office and the Southeast River Forecast Center collocated in Peachtree City, Georgia, will be upgrading hydrologic services by adjusting flood stage levels on the Chattahoochee River at Whitesburg. The change will take effect on Thursday, August 6. This location is a flood-only forecast point, which means forecast and warnings are issued when the river level is expected to rise near or above flood stage. The upgraded hydrologic services were a direct result of field surveys showing more meaningful and applicable warnings and forecasts for public safety could be provided using a higher flood stage.

The following critical threshold levels will be changed as follows: Chattahoochee River at Whitesburg (WHTG1)

Bankfull/Action Stage 15 feet Flood Stage/Minor Flood 17 feet Moderate flood Stage 21 feet Major Flood Stage 26 feet

"The raising of flood stage levels at Whitesburg will provide enhanced flood warning services for recreational interests along the Chattahoochee River," said Keith Stellman, meteorologist-in-charge of The Peachtree City forecast office, which provides all weather services for 96 counties in north and central Georgia. The office collects meteorological data, prepares and disseminates weather forecasts, river and flood forecasts and warnings, and issues severe weather watches and warnings to the public.

"This upgraded forecast service at Whitesburg is invaluable," said Reggina Cabrera, hydrologist-incharge of the SERFC. "The elevated flood stage levels will help us meet the National Weather Service mission of protecting life and property for the citizens in the Whitesburg area."

The Southeast River Forecast Center (SERFC) prepares river stage forecasts for more than 260 locations along major rivers in the southeast portion of the United States. Covering approximately 270,000 square miles, the center's area of responsibility includes north and central Georgia. These forecasts are then forwarded to National Weather Service forecast offices throughout its service area for dissemination to the public.

NOAA's National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NOAA's National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Working with partners, NOAA's National Weather Service is building a Weather-Ready Nation to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Visit us at weather.gov and join us on Facebook and Twitter.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and our other social media channels.